

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This coal lease application was made to the BLM pursuant to provisions of 43 CFR 3425.1 as a lease by application. On July 22, 1992, Bluegrass Coal Development Company (formerly SMC Mining Company) applied for a coal lease for approximately 1,439 acres (approximately 144 million tons of coal) in an area adjacent to the North Rochelle Mine in Campbell County, Wyoming. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has recommended that approximately 81 additional acres containing approximately 9 million tons of coal be included in the tract to avoid a potential bypass situation in the future, and that approximately 39 acres containing approximately 4 million tons of coal be excluded from the tract to enhance the value of the remaining unleased coal in the area. The application was for the following lands:

T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 4: Lots 5 thru 16, 19, and 20;
Sec. 5: Lots 5 thru 16;
Sec. 9: Lot 1;

T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 32: Lots 9 thru 11, 14 thru 16;
Sec. 33: Lots 11 thru 14;

Containing 1439.92 acres, more or less.

The BLM has recommended that the following lands containing approximately 4 million tons of coal reserves be excluded from the application:

T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 9: Lot 1;

Containing 39.15 acres, more or less.

The BLM has recommended that the following additional lands containing an additional estimated 9 million tons of coal reserves be included in the application:

T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 32: Lots 12 and 13.

Containing 81.16 acres, more or less.

The tract as amended by the BLM contains a total of approximately 1481.93 acres and approximately 149 million tons of coal reserves, and includes the following lands:

T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 4: Lots 5 thru 16, 19, and 20;
Sec. 5: Lots 5 thru 16;

T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 32: Lots 9 thru 16;
Sec. 33: Lots 11 thru 14;

The lease application area is west of and contiguous with Bluegrass' existing North Rochelle Mine and with Thunder Basin Coal Company's Black Thunder Mine. The North Rochelle Mine began producing coal in 1990 from a Federal

lease (WYW71692) issued in 1982. Coal production from the existing Federal lease met the diligence requirements of Section 2(a)(2)(A) of the Mineral Leasing Act in November 1996. Bluegrass has applied to lease the proposed North Rochelle Tract (initially called the North Roundup Tract) as a maintenance tract for the North Rochelle Mine.

There are no existing mine facilities or rail facilities at the North Rochelle Mine. Construction is scheduled to begin on the North Rochelle rail and mine facilities in mid-1997. In addition, Encoal Corporation is proposing to begin construction of a coal enhancement facility and power plant inside the rail loop at the North Rochelle Mine starting in 1997, and North American Power Group of Englewood, Colorado is proposing to construct a power plant near the adjacent Black Thunder Mine, starting in late 1997.

The FEIS analyzes three alternatives. The proposed action is to lease the tract as applied for to the successful bidder. Alternative A is to lease the tract as modified by the BLM to the successful bidder. This is the Preferred Alternative of the BLM. The third alternative is the No Action Alternative, which assumes that the lease is not issued.

The North Rochelle tract would be logically mined as a maintenance lease by either the existing North Rochelle Mine or the existing Black Thunder Mine, but it does not include enough coal to make opening a new mine economical. The North Rochelle tract includes part of the Roundup tract, a Federal coal tract which was delineated in the early 1980s but which was never offered for sale.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the FEIS because the surface of some of the lands included in the tract is owned by the Federal Government and administered by the USFS as part of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is also a cooperating agency in the preparation of the FEIS, because it is the Federal agency that administers surface coal mining operations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was made available to the public on November 8, 1996, and the comment period extended through January 10, 1997. Eleven written comment letters were received on the draft documents. They are included, with responses, as Appendix G of the FEIS.

A public hearing was held at 7 p.m. on December 12, 1997, at the Holiday

Inn, 2009 S. Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and on the fair market value, the maximum economic recovery, and the proposed competitive sale of coal from the North Rochelle tract (originally called the North Roundup tract). An open house was held prior to the hearing from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on December 12, 1996, at the Gillette Holiday Inn to answer questions about the North Rochelle coal lease application, as well as other pending coal lease applications, other mineral development issues in the Powder River Basin, the coal leasing process, and the coal unsuitability screening process.

Dated: April 3, 1997.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 97-9163 Filed 4-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-010-07-1020-00-241A]

Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the next meetings of the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council will be held on Thursday, May 15, 1997, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado; and Friday, July 11, 1997, in Craig, Colorado.

DATES: Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 1997, and Friday, July 11, 1997.

ADDRESSES: For further information, contact Joann Graham, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Junction District Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; Telephone (970) 244-3037.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Thursday, May 15, 1997, 9:30 a.m. This meeting will be held at the Yampa Valley Rural Electrification Association building, 32 Tenth Street, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Agenda items include: subcommittee reports, council recommendations regarding motorized travel in the Bang's Canyon planning area, conservationists' wilderness proposal, and new business.

Friday, July 11, 1997, 9 a.m.: This meeting will be held at the BLM District

Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, Colorado. Agenda items include general council business and subcommittee reports.

All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements following the meetings. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of Council meetings are maintained in both the Grand Junction and Craig District Offices. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

Mark Morse,

Grand Junction/Craig District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-9221 Filed 4-9-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-020-07-2811-00]

Notice of Intent To Hold Public Meeting Regarding the Draft BLM Phoenix Field Office Fire Management Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Fire management plan, notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting to discuss the development of the Phoenix Field Office Fire Management Plan. The meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 1997, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the BLM's Phoenix Field Office, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona.

This plan is required by the Federal Wildland Fire Policy for every area with burnable vegetation. Wildland fire management decisions are based on these approved fire management plans in conjunction with land and resource management plans. New fire management plans must be developed and in place by all BLM offices in fiscal year 1998. The initial phase of this two-phase process requires completion of draft fire management direction by June 1, 1997. Final fire management direction must be completed by November 1997.

Comments to the above address, Attention: Glenn Joki, will be accepted until May 12, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Glenn Joki, Fire Management Officer, Phoenix Field Office, 2015 West Deer

Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027, (602) 780-8090.

Dated: April 2, 1997.

David J. Miller,

Acting Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-9225 Filed 4-9-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-010-1430-01; CACA 7202]

Public Land Order No. 7252; Revocation of the Executive Order Dated February 21, 1913; California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order revokes an Executive Order dated February 21, 1913, in its entirety, as it affects 59,752.64 acres of public land withdrawn for Potash Reserve No. 2. The withdrawal is no longer needed for this purpose since potash was made a leasable mineral with the passage of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. The revocation is needed to permit partial disposal of the land through exchange. This action will open the land to nonmetalliferous mining. The land has been and will remain open to surface entry, metalliferous mining, and mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 12, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Gary, BLM California State Office (CA-931.5), 2135 Butano Drive, Sacramento, CA 95825, 916-979-2858.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1988), it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Order dated February 21, 1913, which withdrew public land for Potash Reserve No. 2, is hereby revoked in its entirety as it affects the following described land:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 24 S., R. 43 E.,

Sec. 32, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 33, S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 35, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

An area bounded as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of sec. 31, T. 24 S., R. 43 E.; thence west 2 miles; thence south 12 miles; thence east 9 miles; thence north 12 miles; thence west 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, more or less to the south quarter corner of sec. 36, T. 24 S., R. 43 E., thence west 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles more

or less, along the south line of T. 24 S., R. 43 E., to point of beginning.

The area described contains 59,752.64 acres in San Bernardino County.

2. At 10 a.m. on May 12, 1997, the land will be opened to location and entry for nonmetalliferous mining under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. Appropriation of any of the land described in this order under the general mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 (1988), shall vest no rights against the United States. Acts required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State law where not in conflict with Federal law. The Bureau of Land Management will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determination in local courts.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 97-9213 Filed 4-9-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-924-1430-01; MTM 82330]

Public Land Order No. 7254; Withdrawal of Public Mineral Estate Within the Sweet Grass Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Surrounding Areas; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order withdraws approximately 19,685 acres of public mineral estate from location and entry under the mining laws for a period of 20 years to protect the unique resources within the Sweet Grass Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern and surrounding areas. The lands have been and will remain open to surface entry, as identified in the Sweet Grass Hills Resource Management Plan Amendment, and to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 10, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Hopkins, Great Falls Resource Area Office, Great Falls, Montana 59401, 406-727-0503.